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AMMAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1993, JUMADA ALAWAL 7, 1414

Qatari leader leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sheikh Mohammad Ben Hamad Al Thani, elder brother of the emir of Qatar, left Amman Friday at the end of the three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit Sheikh Mohammad was received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other senior officials. Qatari Ambassador Nasser Abdul Aziz Al Nasser Friday hosted a lunch in honour of Sheikh Mohammad. It was attended by Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Advisor Yanal Hinmat, several Cabinet ministers and senior officials.

Iran-Iraq talks end

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian official returned to Tehran after talks in Baghdad on normalising ties between the two former Gulf war foes. Tehran Television reported Friday. Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif returned home late Thursday after his four-day visit. Speaking on television, Mr. Zarif said that outstanding issues from the 1980-88 war between the two countries dominated the talks.

Iraq seeks contacts with Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Iraq has offered to open official contacts with Israel, the Yediot Acharonot newspaper reported Friday. Iraqi government officials met an Israeli representative in a European capital recently, the biggest-selling daily said. A senior Israeli official told the newspaper that Baghdad wanted Israel to help improve its ties with the United States. Spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he had no information about the report and a foreign ministry spokesman refused to comment.

Saudis draw

DOHA (AFP) — A last-minute equaliser by Saudi Arabia's Ahmad Jamali cost South Korea the chance to go clear at the top of the Asian World Cup final qualifying group here on Friday. The two teams both have four points from three games but South Korea lead on goal difference (Iraq beats Iran, page 9).

Boycott talks postponed

DAMASCUS (R) — The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), said Thursday that a meeting of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office scheduled for Sunday had been postponed indefinitely. It did not give any reasons for the move.

Hijack bid foiled

SANAA (AFP) — A knife-wielding Yemeni man tried to hijack an Egyptian airliner flying from Cairo to Sanaa in northern Yemen Friday, but was overpowered by the crew, officials said. Shortly before the Egypt Air Airbus A320 touched down at Sanaa, the attacker, Ahmad Ali Abu Ali, told the crew to head for Aden, the main town in southern Yemen. The crew overpowered the hijacker and later handed him over to security officials at Sanaa airport, the source said.

Druze head named

TEL AVIV (AP) — Some 1,200 Druze clerics from Israel, Lebanon and the occupied Golan Heights confirmed Muafak Tarif of Israel as their leader Friday, Israeli Radio reported. Sheikh Tarif is the grandson of Sheikh Amin Tarif, who died at 95 on Oct. 2 after leading the Druze community in Israel for over 60 years. His influence extended to Druze in Syria and Lebanon.

Israel: Qatar wants to sell gas

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said a Gulf emirate wants to sell Israel natural gas despite a lack of diplomatic ties, his office said on Friday. Mr. Shahal was referring to Qatar, Israeli media said.

Israel cuts ban on Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel eased restrictions on Friday on Palestinians entering the Jewish state and occupied Jerusalem, a move seen as a goodwill gesture to help talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Police Minister Moshe Shahal said women of all ages, men over 40 and children under 16 accompanied by an adult could enter Israel and Jerusalem. Israel radio said the measures would take effect from next Tuesday.

Mr. Shahal told reporters in Haifa that doctors and employees of the Jerusalem municipality would also be allowed in.

On Thursday the Likud bloc at the Knesset introduced and won an amendment to Jerusalem law that bars the Israeli government from entering into negotiations that might affect the status of the city without a two-thirds majority at the Knesset.

Palestinian leaders have demanded the government lift the seven-month-old restrictions and free Palestinian prisoners to show their people tangible results from a peace accord signed with Israel last month.

Israel agreed on Thursday in talks with Palestinians in the Red Sea resort of Taba to

(Continued on page 5)

Ross leaves Syria after marathon talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Middle East envoy Denis Ross flew out of here Friday after marathon talks with President Hafez Al Assad on reviving the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

He discussed with Mr. Assad a visit to the region next month by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Syrian News Agency reported at the end of more than seven hours of talks.

Mr. Ross pledged he would "work hard" to secure progress in talks between Israel and Syria when he arrived here Thursday with messages for Mr. Assad from President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

It was not clear if Mr. Ross brought to Syria any new proposals capable of ending the deadlock in its talks with Israel. The negotiations have bogged down over the Golan Heights.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh told Reuters that Mr. Ross gave Mr. Assad a message from President Clinton Thursday night.

The message affirmed "the U.S. administration's commitment to continue its efforts to find a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said.

U.S. sources said Mr. Ross, who has had talks with Egyptian, Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli leaders, was returning to the United States and would not be visiting Lebanon (Continued on page 5)

Jordan pursues debt relief efforts

Germany to give JD 18m in aid and JD 4m in write-off

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In addition to granting DM 43.8 million (JD 18 million) in grants and loans to Jordan for fiscal year 1994, Germany will also write off DM 9.7 million (JD 4 million) of the Kingdom's debt, a senior diplomat said Friday.

The debt relief offer was made last week in talks between Jordanian officials and a visiting German delegation, which on Thursday signed the minutes of discussions that produced the agreement on the 1994 assistance to Jordan, said Mathias Meyers, first secretary at the German embassy in Amman.

The offer, which includes a stipulation that 50 per cent of the amount to be written off would be used for environmental protection, was accepted by Jordan and will be formalised soon with an official agreement, Mr. Meyers told the Jordan Times.

(Continued on page 5)

Switzerland converts JD16.5m loans into development grant

develop the Kingdom's tourism sector.

Despite the stipulation, the agreement means "full debt reduction" since the amount set aside will be used for development projects within Jordan, Mr. Gammo noted.

"It is a very good beginning in realising Jordan's quest to reduce its debt overhang, and we hope other European countries would extend similar gestures," Mr. Gammo told the Jordan Times Friday.

Jordan figures among countries with the highest per capita foreign debt, he pointed out. "The burden is far beyond the scope of a country like Jordan."

The finance minister emphasised that without addressing the economic problems of Jordan in a manner that reflects in terms of

(Continued on page 10)

Troops fire on Kashmir protesters; over 30 dead

SRINAGAR (Agencies) — Indian troops shot dead at least 31 people in Kashmir on Friday when they fired into crowds of angry Muslims on the besieged Hazratbal mosque, police and hospital sources said.

Twenty-four demonstrators were shot dead in the town of Bijbehara, some 40 kilometres south of here, while seven people died during day-long anti-Indian protests which rocked this Kashmir summer capital. A total of more than 200 people were injured as police used clubs, teargas and live ammunition to disperse demonstrators who defied a curfew and attempted to march on the Hazratbal shrine, according to the police.

Superintendent of Police Mohammad Amin said that 15 people died in Bijbehara when paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fire to break up a 30,000-strong crowd heading for the mosque.

Doctors at Bijbehara's main hospital told AFP that 24 people had died and more than 100 had been injured, including 20 who were in serious condition.

Korea Gold Star to hold Amman meeting

AMMAN — The Korean Gold Star Company will hold its regional strategic meeting for the Middle East here from Oct. 25 to Oct. 28, according to a decision taken by the company's Board of Directors chairman.

The board's decision to convene the meeting in Amman was brought about by the political and economic stability Jordan enjoys. The board's chairman visited Jordan twice and received Jordan's Independence Medal of the

Confidence...
The conference aims at formulating the company's joint strategy for Gold Star Korea and Gold Star Jordan. It also seeks to implement the joint plans of the two companies. Under the plans, Gold Star Jordan will export its products abroad. A press conference on the occasion will be held Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 5:00 p.m.

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PROUD GRANDPARENT AND PARENTS:
His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and his wife Princess Alia Al Faisal Friday had their second baby, a boy. According to a communiqué issued by the Royal

Court, His Majesty King Hussein named the newborn Omar. Prince Faisal and Princess Alia got married in 1987 and have a one-year-old daughter, Princess Aya

1 million of 1,514,000 in roster expected to collect voter cards

By Suhaib Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government expects over one million of the 1,514,000 registered voters to collect their voting cards. Interior Minister Salameh Hammad was quoted as saying Friday.

Syrian officials have threatened to boycott the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks unless Damascus is sure of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

They have rejected Israeli calls for secret negotiations and separate peace agreements and insisted on a comprehensive peace settlement within the framework of the U.S.-brokered process.

among thousands of handwritten names before the assigned centres hands out the cards. In a Third District centre, for example, there are some 20,000 names through which voters much search for their names.

"It is a time-consuming and indeed frustrating process, and only those who really care are willing to spend at least two hours looking for their names," said the campaign manager.

There were also some incidents where after finally finding the name on the list, a voter would not find his/her card and is then asked to check with the governorate. "In that case, the voter just gives up and goes home," one candidate said.

Despite the ministry's attempts to ensure that there is no discrepancy in the number of voters to revising and checking the names to avoid duplication, incidents were reported of repeated names and voters obtaining more than one voting card in their name.

Critics say that a turnout of one million voters is not enough for the success of the election process. "If the government expects about one million voters to collect their cards, what about the other half million?" asked one observer.

While these measures have helped, the process is still excruciating despite the rosy picture that the ministry is trying to portray, said one campaign manager who did not wish to be named.

A voter has to look for his/her name sometimes

largest organised group, which in the 1989 elections won 23 seats of the 80-member lower house.

The group is actively engaged in facilitating the card obtaining process. It has even organised buses, cars and even trucks to transport their supporters to the polling stations on Nov. 8.

Mr. Hammad told ONA that out of the 559 who filed nominations, courts rejected four and two withdrew from the race, and the final number of candidates as of Thursday was 555.

The door is still open for those who wish to withdraw from the race," Mr. Hammad said.

Mr. Hammad said that the elections for the 12th parliament will differ from those of 1989 in that the attitudes towards elections had changed. "Now the voter knows what he wants from the deputy he is going to elect and the deputy realises the citizen's awareness of his (the deputy's) role and duties."

The introduction of political pluralism has also brought different dimensions to the electoral process, with many candidates running on the tickets of some of the 20 political parties that have been legalised since the adoption of the political parties law in September last year. Mr. Hammad said.

The minister said that the latest developments in the peace process will affect voting trends in the Kingdom.

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Water cooperation is vital for peace

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Presse

ABU DHABI — Israel and the Arab states are striving to their long-standing conflict but any political settlement remains fractious without agreement on water, official and independent reports show.

And a similar agreement is needed further north, where relations between Turkey and its Arab neighbours Iraq and Syria have strained over sharing the Euphrates, one of the biggest rivers in the region.

All those parties have been involved in multilateral talks on water and environment within the Middle East peace negotiations but have not made as much progress as in the political field.

Except Turkey, all of them are suffering from shortages in water supplies and the gap could widen with the rapid population growth unless they reach a formula for a fair share-out and development of water resources.

"Water has become one of the main sources of conflicts that threaten the stability and future of the region," said Gaiith Armanazi, head of the Arab League office in London. "The issue has also become an important issue in political and economic negotiations."

In a study for a recent London seminar published in the United Arab Emirates daily Al-Khalaj on Friday, Mr. Armanazi added: "It has become difficult for regional states to get additional water supplies without spending large funds or entering conflicts that could destabilise the region."

A recent Arab League report drew a gloomy picture of the future of water in the region, where the population is growing by as fast as four per cent.

At present, the Arab water shortage is estimated at 44 per cent and is expected to widen to 155 billion cubic metres by the year 2000, according to Arab and United Nations reports.

By the year 2010, the gap will reach nearly 172 billion cubic metres and it will rise to 199 billion cubic metres by the year 2020 and to 259 billion

cubic metres by the year 2030, the reports showed.

The rapid population growth and lack of technology to exploit existing water resources have pushed down per capita share of water in the Arab World to 1,750 cubic metres compared with a world average of 13,900 cubic metres. Sweet water reserves have also plunged to around 7,734 cubic kilometres, only 0.07 of the world's reserves.

The Arab World's main water sources come from three major rivers, the Nile, Euphrates and Tigris. But all of them flow from outside the region.

"The area of water sources in the Arab countries is estimated at 14.3 million square kilometres but most of them are located outside these countries," the Arab League says.

Although Israel has managed to narrow the deficit, around 67 per cent of its supplies come from Arab land it seized in 1967 and 1968, the report said.

"It can be said that one of Israel's goals in its wars against the Arabs is to secure water," it said. "Such goals have been achieved, with its supplies increasing by at least 25 per cent."

It said 35 per cent of the increase came from the West Bank and Jordan River, 22 per cent from Golani Heights and the rest from South Lebanon. It said the increase was needed to cater for an influx of Jewish immigrants and a growth in population, which rose to more than 2.5 million in 1990 from 1.6 million before the 1967 war.

Ironically, oil-rich Gulf states are the only Arab states that do not suffer from a shortage in sweet water although their desert land makes them among the poorest in water resources.

Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbours have spent more than \$100 billion to build desalination plants, which now meet nearly 70 per cent of their needs and could be expanded in future.

Security concerns have prompted Gulf states to reject a Turkish offer to supply them with water from its twin rivers of Ceyhan and Seyhan.

Fateh officials under house arrest

TUNIS (AFP) — A number of senior officials from Fateh, the main faction, were placed under house arrest here this week amid an inquiry into the murder of a top Palestinian in the Gaza Strip, according to informed sources here.

The sources told AFP that nine Fateh officials from the Gaza Strip were put under house arrest on Sunday after being summoned for talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on the execution of a lawyer.

Mohammad Abu Shaaban, an Arafat aide and leading moderate.

Mr. Shaaban was gunned down in the Gaza Strip on Sept. 21.

Two officials were still being held at the end of the week, the sources said.

Four of the nine refused to go to the meeting with Mr. Arafat on Sunday and were hauled in by PLO security guards, the sources said.

They added that the meeting, which centred on Mr. Shaaban's murder, lasted several hours and was very animated. The nine, seven men and two women, were placed under house arrest by the organisation immediately afterwards.

Four were released on Monday after an urgent intervention by Abu Ali Shahin, a respected PLO veteran, and two more were set free on Tuesday, the sources added.

Two remained confined to their houses on Thursday evening, while information about the last official was not forthcoming.

Mr. Shahin denied the allegations when questioned by AFP, saying an 11-strong delegation from Gaza had been in Tunis for two weeks to discuss implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy deal signed with Israel.

Another senior PLO official in the Gaza Strip, Assad Saftawi, a close friend of Mr. Arafat's, was gunned down on Thursday.

The PLO has notably refrained from accusing anyone of carrying out either of the killings.

Israel: Arab-American is senior Hamas leader

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli military prosecutors have charged a Palestinian American arrested in January with being the overall military commander of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, security sources said Friday.

Mohammad Salah, 39, arrested on suspicion of providing funds to Hamas during a visit to the West Bank, was accused of being the mastermind behind Hamas's military infrastructure, they added.

Israeli military officials said Mr. Salah's trial "has yet to begin because of the prosecution's request to present a new indictment."

Mr. Salah's lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, was not available to comment.

Hamas and PLO activists led the Palestinian uprising which began in the Israeli-occupied territories in December 1987 but it has vowed to sabotage the Palestinian self-rule deal the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed with Israel in Sept. 13.

It was set up in 1968 as an arm of the Muslim Brotherhood.

An army spokesman said he could not check with military courts, closed on Friday and Saturday, until Sunday.

Two other Palestinian Americans arrested with Mr. Salah in January were later

released and returned to the United States.

Mr. Salah was indicted in the military court at Ramallah on the West Bank on Thursday.

He was also charged with plotting to murder Sari Nusseibeh, who heads the Palestinian technical committee preparing for autonomy in the occupied territories.

Mr. Salah was born in the West Bank refugee camp of Kalandia but was living in Chicago when he visited Jerusalem early in 1993. He allegedly trained in the United States for a dozen other Palestinian Americans to handle explosives.

The group was to be sent to the territories to carry out bomb attacks, but the plan was foiled with Mr. Salah's arrest, Israeli sources said.

The indictment was a revised version of earlier charges in which Mr. Salah had been accused of carrying tens of thousands of dollars into the country to finance a new underground structure for Hamas following the Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinian fundamentalists.

The divorce rate among settlers had shot up, the Haaretz added, quoting the directors, but without giving figures.

An increasing number of parents had also refused to pay in advance to enrol in the community centres saying they did not know where they would be in a few months.

In June Mr. Salah pleaded not guilty on charges of trying to rebuild Hamas, membership of a hostile organisation, aiding an illegal organisation and sheltering a wanted man.

The group was to be sent to the territories to carry out bomb attacks, but the plan was foiled with Mr. Salah's arrest, Israeli sources said.

Youngster and new immigrants from the ex-Soviet Union are the main victims of stress brought on by the autonomy agreement which came into effect no Oct. 13 but leaves responsibility for the settlements in Israeli army hands.

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Interfaith group finalises business code of ethics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, a series of interfaith consultations among followers of the three monotheistic religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) have been held since 1984 and on Oct. 15-17 a consultation was convened in Amman which Their Royal Highnesses were joined by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, to finalise the formulation of a code of ethics for business. The declaration was drawn up by an interfaith group of nine scholars, clerics, and businessmen.

After a comprehensive review of the three religions' positions on the subject, they included that they shared a concern for justice, mutual

respect, stewardship and honesty.

The declaration also incorporates the best of contemporary business practice. It will be published in several different languages so that it may have wider dissemination among various audiences in the world.

The meeting also dealt with the theme of "Richness in Diversity" from the perspectives of the religions.

Prince Hassan delivered a paper in which he stressed that Islamic culture has flourished on the basis of social and cultural pluralism, and the diversity of its followers (see full text on page 4).

The Crown Prince also stressed that the contributions of Christians and Jews, especially in the arts and thought, to what has been

regarded as a monolithic Islamic civilization.

Rabbi Norman Solomon presented the second paper which demonstrated the different strands in the Jewish tradition that affirmed a recognition of the richness in diversity. This diversity, said Dr. Solomon, is to be cherished as a testimony to the glory of God, who is too great to be contained in one tradition.

Professor Kerkhofs delivered a paper from a Christian (Catholic) viewpoint. He emphasised the radical change in Catholic theology concerning other religions announced in Vatican II.

Focusing on Europe, Prince Hassan expressed his particular concern for the plight of religious minorities living in Europe.

Arabs, Europeans to discuss ethics in economy

By Katharine Rath
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the initiative of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, a symposium entitled "Ethics in Economy: Arab perspectives" begins tomorrow (Saturday) at the Forte Hotel.

A total of 47 scholars, bankers and officials from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Turkey, as well as Germany, will attend the two-day meeting.

The discussion will focus on the influence of religion on economy in a present as well as future perspective, using a comparative approach between Islamic and Christian ethics.

According to ATF Secretary General Ali Umileil, the global changes experienced in the last 20 years as well as the recent economic developments, which have had an important effect

on the economic order, have actualised debate on future social and economic development. The symposium will provide a forum for such debate, he said.

There has been a trend towards a more open economy and privatisation in the Islamic world lately, signifying a move away from the state-led economies of the 60s and 70s. One of the questions that needs to be debated, according to Dr. Umileil, is what role the state should play in this new economic order.

There might exist a consensus as to the state acting as a guarantor of the "rules of the game" through legislation and application of the law, but there is a need to define the areas and the extent of state activity. Dr. Umileil said, pointing to the problems of responsibility for social security and the protection of workers' rights in a market economy.

The core of the matter is the question of how to combine a commitment to religious and moral values, including social

justice, with the creation and operation of a viable economy, he explained.

The symposium will draw from the German experience of the social market economy model and will look at Christian ethics in the German economic system and how it is applied. There will also be a discussion of religious values in money and banking, as well as a comparison between Islamic and Christian financial and economic concepts, according to Dr. Umileil.

In his address to the 48th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations earlier this month, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan touched on the theme of the symposium when he called for "a new global business ethic" to be applied. Such an ethic, he said, "would be wholly reconcilable with human rights, with pluralism, with care for the environment, with basic religious values."

The Crown Prince will be one of the speakers at the opening session of the symposium.

Chemical engineers recommend creation of pan-Arab society

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day chemical engineering conference which ended at the University of Jordan Thursday called for the creation of a pan-Arab society of chemical engineers.

Held under the patronage of Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the conference commended in a statement issued here Friday that chemical engineers work towards re-

ducing the amount of pollution to the environment, arrange for the recycling of waste products such as paper, plastic and glass and help in the transfer of modern technology to Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

The conference, which was attended by 250 participants from 25 Arab and foreign countries said that small chemical industries should be en-

couraged through assistance from engineers associations which could establish a special fund to grant loans to chemical engineers to start small businesses.

The participants, who reviewed 105 papers from Jordan and the other participating countries, emphasised the need to maintain closer contact and cooperation.

otash company plans final expansion

RAK (Petra) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) plans to execute the second and last expansion project designed to increase potash production to 2.2 million tonnes annually, according to APC Board Chairman Ali Ensour.

Speaking during a visit to the C plant near the southern end of the Dead Sea Thursday, Sheikh Mohammad Ben mad Al Thani of Qatar, Mr. Ensour said the expansion project, which is expected to be completed by 1997, was estimated to cost \$320 million.

Referring to other projects, Ensour said that the company was currently working in the Jordan Phosphate Industries Company (JPMC) and a consortium of Japanese firms conduct a chemical industry

project exploiting minerals and Dead Sea salts.

APC also plans to set up a plant for the production of table salt and industrial salt and is currently studying bids from international firms for the project, he said.

After completion, the project is expected to produce around 30,000 tonnes of table salt and 1.2 million tonnes of industrial salts annually, said Mr. Ensour.

In referring to the APC plant, established in 1956, Mr. Ensour said the company has a JD 72.5 million capital owned by the Jordanian government together with the Arab Mining Company, and the governments of Iraq, Libya, Kuwait and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank.

Accompanying the Qatari guest were Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat, Minister of Higher Education Khaled Al Omari and Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Nasser Ben Abdul Aziz Al Nasser.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are invited to verify the listed time and place with concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhtar Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Casa Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).

Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel, Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m., daily except Friday).

Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.

Exhibition of Chinese products at the International Exhibition Centre.

Art exhibition by artist Sabah Hadidi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.

DIALOGUE

Dialogue with Egyptian actress Firdous Abdul Hamid at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

King passes directives to Khaled Karaki

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a message to Khaled Karaki who was appointed advisor to the King and president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation), praising him for his service and passing him directives on his new mission.

Dr. Karaki had served as Chief of the Royal Court until Oct. 14.

In his message, the King said that one of Dr. Karaki tasks will be to supervise the publication of the Hashemite documents in addition to following up the general cultural developments in the Kingdom.

"These documents should be published because they reflect Jordan's modern history and they are for Jordan and the Jordanian people and the coming generation," said the King.

"I entrust you also with the task of meeting the requirements of the new Al al Bait University (now being established in the Mafraq region), as we attach hope to this institution where the young people of the Arab and Islamic worlds



Khaled Al Karaki

will gather and where they will receive education, enabling them to confront the challenges of the future," said King Hussein.

"I also hope that in addition to these responsibilities you will work closely with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at Al al Bait Foundation so that your joint efforts will contribute towards attaining the nation's aspirations and objectives," King Hussein added.

Jordan, Egypt to work on resuming joint panel meetings

AMMAN (J.T.)

—

Jordan and Egypt will soon work towards the resumption of meetings by the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee, according to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassoun.

Mr. Hassoun made the statement Thursday following a one-day visit to Jordan by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa who was received by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

The resumption of the joint committee meetings, after a break of more than three years, was one of the topics Mr. Musa discussed with King Hussein in reviewing Jordanian-Egyptian relations, said Mr. Hassoun.

Describing Mr. Musa's visit and his talks with Jordanian officials as cordial and brotherly, Mr. Hassoun said that several issues of concern to the two countries, including the Middle East peace process, were scrutinised at the meetings.

The discussions covered the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israeli agreement on self-rule in the Gaza Strip

and Jericho and the peace process in general, he said.

The two sides stressed the need for maintaining close contacts on these and other matters, said Mr. Hassoun.

The Egyptian minister, who was on his first visit to Amman since the Gulf war, told journalists before his departure to Cairo Thursday that he also discussed bilateral relations with King Hussein, conveyed to him greetings from President Hosni Mubarak as well as Mr. Mubarak's ideas on the topics discussed with King Hussein and Jordanian officials.

He stressed that Egypt is not playing the role of a mediator.

He also voiced optimism that the Israeli-Syrian and the Israeli-Lebanese tracks will soon witness real progress.

About asked recent reports that Egypt was working towards organising an Arab summit meeting, Mr. Musa said that it was premature to talk about this subject and that the summit could be held later, after solidarity has been achieved and differences removed among Arab countries.

According to the Jordan New Agency, Petra, King Hussein and Mr. Musa stressed the need for ending inter-Arab differences and unifying Arab ranks to safeguard the nation's interests.

On the possibility of an improvement in relations between Jordan and Palestine on one side and Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries on the other.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Mr. Hassoun held separate talks with Mr. Musa, to discuss the peace process and Arab affairs.

Experts spend 2 days debating content, value and future of PLO-Israel accord

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Was the self-rule agreement reached between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel a victory for the Palestinians or a defeat? Was it possible to reach a better agreement? And, now that the agreement is signed, what is next?

More than 20 researchers and experts in Palestinian affairs failed to concur on these and other questions in a specialised seminar organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre in cooperation with the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) and held over two days last week.

Although most participants agreed that the end of the cold war, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the financial and political "siege" on the PLO and the Gulf crisis were the main factors that led to the PLO signing of the accord, some insisted that there was "more to it."

For Mohammad Nazzal, spokesperson of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Amman, the reasons that "drove the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, into signing the agreement were more related to Mr. Arafat's fears and apprehensions over the PLO's future."

According to Mr. Nazzal, Mr. Arafat's fears stem from three factors: the growing power of mainstream Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories that might take over from the PLO; the increased importance of the Jordanian role following more "talk" about confederation and a united kingdom; and the role of opposition forces in the occupied territories and the Israelis in particular.

Tawfiq Abu Baker, a researcher in Palestinian affairs and a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), believes that the accord was reached at this moment in time because the "PLO reached a conclusion that if there was no rapid (signature), the organisation would collapse, and the Israeli Labour Party became fully convinced that if there were no agreement this would lessen its chances of regaining power in future Israeli elections," he said.

While some participants argued that the accord was not a departure from the Palestinian path, others charged that the PLO leaders deviated from the agreed-upon basis that led to the organisation's participation in the Arab-Israeli peace talks in the first place.

"The constants that were set as bases for signing any agreement with Israel were violated," said Saji Salameh, also a PNC member. "The Palestinian issue is a national issue and not one of refugees or a cause that only concerns a fragment of the Palestinian people."

Between supporters and opponents of the agreement, the participants hotly debated and projected what should be done "now that the accord has been signed."

"Pro or anti-accord, the peace issue has been solved on the Palestinian level and on the Arab level since the Madrid conference," said Mr. Salameh. "What has to be looked into at present is that the accord fails to meet the agreed-upon standards set at

the start. There was no mention of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," he said. In addition, Mr. Salameh asked, "what will happen to Jerusalem?"

Researcher Labib Qamhawi criticised both the accord and the Palestinian leadership itself. "Why is it that every time Yasser Arafat creates a problem we feel we should gather around the leadership for the sake of what is called 'national unity'?" he asked. "Everyone can see that in the accord there is no mention of the word 'withdrawal' but 'redeployment,' apart from the fact that terms of self-determination and sovereignty are nonexistent."

Although most participants agreed that the end of the cold war, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the financial and political "siege" on the PLO and the Gulf crisis were the main factors that led to the PLO signing of the accord, some insisted that there was "more to it."

Ziad Abu Ghannim, member of the Executive Bureau of the Islamic Action Front, said that all of this talk is a waste of time because "reconciliation with the Jews is prohibited in

Islamic Sharia."

Mr. Ghannim said that if the Jordanian government wanted to prove it was democratic, it has to call for a referendum since "the Jordanian government has not consulted the Jordanian people and the Palestinian people have not had their say in the 'Jewish-Israeli' accord."

Strongly dismayed with what he described as violent and unfair attacks on the Palestinian leadership, Walid Ja'afar, an expert and a researcher in Palestinian and Israeli affairs, said that the "Palestinian leadership has committed some mistakes but was also right in other instances and was able to achieve many things there is land regardless of the area; there are people regardless of their number and there is power regardless of its being 'transitional' or not."

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Critical of all opponents and

proponents to the agreement, Faisal Hourani, expert in Palestinian affairs and a PNC member, stressed that there should be an overall assessment of the recent developments and not "black and white" judgements.

"I haven't heard, even in the ranks of the supporters, any mentioning of the profit the Palestinian people are going to make out of this agreement ... as if the value of blood, killing and murder are the only honourable ones," he said, indicating that if the Palestinians reached the agreement in the 1970s, the situation would have been better, and if they did not sign it now, it would be worse in the future."

Both the opponents and the proponents of the agreement are in crisis ... they have given more promises to the people than they can fulfil."

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Crime against peace

THE ASSASSINATION in Gaza Thursday of moderate Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Assaf Saftawi serves as a sad and shocking warning of the cycle of violence that could accompany the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule deal with Israel.

While no sufficient evidence exists to hold any party responsible for the murder of Saftawi, the implications of what this incident represents are clear to all. But such heinous acts of violence against Palestinian activists are likely to draw the area into the abyss of hate and distrust, starting a process of political assassinations that could only undermine the whole future of the occupied territories and the region. The peace process and the promise of a resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that the autonomy accord holds out are the target here, whatever the particular motive for any killing may be. The future of the whole region could thus be jeopardised by the failure of the PLO and Israel to implement the deal.

For this reason, the assassination of Saftawi should be condemned by all parties to the Arab-Israeli peace process, and the search for the perpetrators of this crime should be supported by Israel and the Palestinians alike.

Political assassinations should be fought by all because it is pure terrorism that have to be rejected by everybody anyway. The assassins of Saftawi should be pursued and punished because their act is an indication of the indiscriminate violence that they are willing to fuel in order to make their view prevail.

Saftawi is a loss not only to the PLO and its Chairman Yasser Arafat whom he helped establish the Fatah movement but is also a blow to all Palestinians and to the cause of peace in the region. His long history of work for the Palestinian cause and his acceptance by almost all Palestinian factions explain the widespread public grief that his death evoked. Should his assassins be fellow Palestinians, they will have overlooked Saftawi's devotion to the Palestinian cause before they emptied their guns in his head. This is a fearful sign that the violence will escalate.

There are already several theories as to who might have killed the Gazan leader. Some point the fingers of blame at Israel, some hold those groups which reject the PLO-Israel accord to be responsible, and there are others, like Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who allege that Saftawi was murdered by opponents of Mr. Arafat within his Fatah organisation.

Investigations will hopefully soon reveal the identity of the murderers. Until then, and regardless of who committed the crime, the challenge for Arafat and his team is to put the Palestinian house in order and take appropriate measures to prevent the cycle of violence from casting a cloud of fear over the occupied territories. In doing so, the PLO chairman must be helped by all those who stand to lose as much as the Palestinians if the extremists prevail and the PLO fails to maintain peace and order in the areas that will soon come under its direct control.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN HIS address at the Royal War College, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's commitment to peace based on justice and said again that Amman will support the independent decision of the Palestinian leadership. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has all the rights to take measures leading to the liberation of the oppressed people of Palestine, said the paper, quoting the King's words. It said that Jordan, like the other parties involved in the peace process, ought to get involved in the battle for a peace that can be acceptable to the future generations. The peace process, said the paper, is fraught with challenges and manoeuvres requiring from the Palestinians closer unity of ranks and cooperation in order to make the biggest possible gains through negotiations with the Israelis, the paper continued. Praising the Armed Forces, the King said that the Armed Forces are needed to ensure protection for the homeland and to contribute to the U.N. peacekeeping efforts around the world, said the paper. The paper referred to the coming general elections, urging the people to vote for those who can best represent their hopes and their aspirations and are worthy of confidence. The paper said that the King's speech set clear guidelines and reiterated the Kingdom's adherence to its principled stand vis-a-vis regional issues and domestic affairs.

WRITING in Al Dustour, Mohammad Daoud drew the concerned authorities' attention to the need to take precautionary measures ahead of the winter season so as to safeguard lives and property. The heavy damage caused by the torrential rain in Maan and Aqaba over the past three days, said the writer, point among other things to the fact that the local authorities did not give due attention to the construction of bridges, streets and culverts. The heavy damage to property could have been less had there existed strong bridges and other infrastructure elements to withstand the storm, he said. The storms which caused extensive damage to property two years ago in the same regions should have sounded the alarm for the local authorities, urging them to take extra precautions and ensure safety of lives and property, added the writer. He said the present facilities and the infrastructure which were sufficiently strong 10 years ago are in need of repair and new plans to strengthen the structures should have been long prepared. The writer said that the local authorities are called to reexamine the situation and take speedy measures that can deal with emergency situations which, he said, could be brought by the coming winter.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Kellani

Arab reconciliation — the right step at a critical juncture

The visit to Jordan Thursday of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and the message he brought to His Majesty King Hussein from President Hosni Mubarak had, no doubt, a lot to do with the shift in inter-Arab relations in the wake of the dramatic developments in the Middle East peace process.

To a large extent, it would seem that Jordan's efforts to achieve an honourable reconciliation in the Arab World and heal the painful wounds left behind by the Gulf crisis are bearing fruit.

The fact that Mr. Musa flew in from Saudi Arabia after attending talks between King Fahd and President Mubarak was most telling since the implication was clear that the Saudi leader is closely involved in the process.

The next logical step, of course, is a visit by King Hussein to Egypt for talks with President Mubarak and seal a reconciliation between Amman and Cairo and then to follow it up with meeting with leaders of the Gulf states.

An Arab summit, an idea that some of the Gulf leaders had been ruling out for quite some time now, could follow, not necessarily because of the need to improve the Arab atmosphere but because of the pressing sense of urgency to forge an Arab strategy to deal with the new realities brought in by the breakthroughs in Arab-Israeli peacemaking.

It may be redundant to say this, but it has not only to be said but clearly understood by all players in the Middle East and elsewhere in the Arab World that the long sought-for break for peace in the region is here, but the Arabs may not be the beneficiaries of the process without a consolidated, united and coordinated position to deal with Israel and the possibilities that peace would open up in the region.

The objective of a coordinated Arab stand should not be allowed to be overshadowed by the ghosts of the Gulf crisis. Those who allow it would be failing their own people if only because strains in inter-Arab relations are not a normal state of affairs and could only facilitate Israeli designs and goals to reap the benefits of peace without meeting the minimum requirements of peace — a complete withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war, recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of independent statehood, and the right of those displaced in the Middle East wars to return home or receive compensation.

Last, but not least, is Jerusalem. Without a strong Arab and Islamic stand, it is a foregone conclusion that Israel would ever be willing to acknowledge and accept the fact that the Muslims

have an eternal right to the Holy City.

These most obvious factors in Arab-Israeli peacemaking have remained constant and will remain constant unless the Arabs are willing to rise above their differences to reach a point where approaches to achieving common objectives are not only drawn up but fully adhered to regardless of any external pressure or consideration.

True, the wounds inflicted on the Arab psyche by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait are hard to heal, not the least because of the very reality that it targeted the sovereignty of an Arab leader.

Jordan does not have any magic potion to heal those wounds, but it does have a right to reject the convenient explanations that it was somehow a party to the affair beyond its earnest quest to avert the devastating war that followed. What Jordan seeks is a better understanding of its position and an acceptance of what the realities of its conduct on the Arab scene for decades have indicated: that it never stood against Arab consensus, was never a party to aggression of any nature, upheld pan-Arab obligations despite negative consequences on its national interests and always placed its limited but entire resources at the disposal of the Arab World whenever it was warranted.

To cite the Gulf crisis and cite Jordan's refusal to join the military coalition against Iraq as a breach of Arab agreements is simply not fair because the crisis had pitted Arabs against Arabs — something that King Hussein always sought to avoid — and the Jordanian position was one of neutrality supported by a herculean effort to avoid a war.

This is history now, but it needs to be brought up if only to underline Jordan's earnest desire for honest and honourable reconciliation with the Gulf states and among the Arab states at large.

As His Majesty the King himself said recently, Jordan has not done anything to apologise for. Indeed, it was a magnanimous gesture on His Majesty's part to apologise for any "personal" harm he might have caused to any Arab leader.

We are most heartened by the strong signs of Arab reconciliation and hope with all sincerity and honesty that it would be in the right spirit and based on the understanding that the interests of the Arab Nation and the need to turn a totally new page in Arab history at this critical juncture are supreme and should not be held hostage to any individual consideration.

'Interdependence between peoples, cultures and religions should be the paradigm of the new millennium'

Following is the full text of an address delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at an inter-faith consultation programme convened in Amman between Oct. 15 and 17:

Given that the theme of this meeting is "Richness in Diversity," I would like to begin by applauding the diversity of this assembly, and looking forward to the rich debate that undoubtedly lies ahead.

There can be no doubt that diversity in any field, by allowing the meeting of different perspectives, is more likely to generate creativity than bland uniformity. To my mind, this observation is almost self-evident: but there are those who would differ on this point.

Before coming onto my main observations, I would therefore like briefly to examine the theoretical aspects of our theme.

Although his work has perhaps been devalued by association with the Marxist enterprise, I believe that the perspective of Hegel retains a large measure of validity. The encounter of thesis and antithesis, producing a synthesis of the soundest elements of both, was Hegel's model for the progress of history. It can apply to any study, however. John Stuart Mill, one of the founding fathers of a very different philosophy to Hegel's, argued that all human thought should be subject to constant challenge. He believed that this alone would prevent the stultification of once fresh insights into dogma. Edmund Burke, coming from yet another tradition, believed that society was engaged in a continuous process of evolution; and that its richness would be determined by its diversity. For Hegel, Mill and Burke alike, continuous creative exchange was the lifeblood of human endeavour. The cost of this is a willingness to lay aside the belief that one has a monopoly on the truth; to affirm that what may be appropriate to one set of circumstances is not always appropriate to another.

The synthesis of ideas that follows the accommodation of diverse inputs inevitably enjoys greater depth, greater richness, than an unchallenged thesis. To my mind, the proposition that diversity engenders richness has been made convincingly, at least in its theoretical aspect. What is the historical evidence?

I would like in this paper to test this proposition against the history of Islam.

Islam is not just a faith or a system of belief, a simple matter of doctrine or a compiled body of scripture: it is all these elements combined. In Islamic civilisation, religion has served as a fountainhead, providing

the rationale for its existence and accomplishments. The success of Islam as a world religion — about one-fifth of the world's population is now Muslim — testifies to its diversity, and indeed its capacity to accommodate diversity.

Although historically Islam began its mission among the Arabs, its assimilative power united peoples of a vast domain stretching from the borders of India and China to the countries of the Mediterranean basin. Islam became as rich and varied as its diverse world has become. Its very spread has ensured its diversity. As different peoples embraced the faith, it became evident that the Islamic community could not be regarded as a monolith.

Lewis believes that eclecticism was the essence of Islam's originality. The process amounted to more than a simple mechanical juxtaposition of

"Islam has thus flourished on the basis of social and cultural pluralism, and the diversity of its followers. In contrast to the stratified societies outside Arabia, the proclaimed egalitarianism of the new faith ensured the equality of all Muslims, irrespective of ethnic origin or social class, enhanced by the bond of religious fellowship. Military and political dominance, combined with language and faith, soon gave way to cultural exchange, heralding a long and fruitful process of cultural cross-fertilisation to bring about a unique hybrid."

In various parts of its new domains, Islam had to adapt to local conditions, incorporating many of the cultural customs and traditions of indigenous societies, even while introducing radical changes to patterns of social modes. Religion remained the unifying, even dominant factor in their life, but there was no desire or attempt to obliterate their cultures.

Islam has thus flourished on the basis of social and cultural pluralism, and the diversity of its followers. In contrast to the stratified societies outside Arabia, the proclaimed egalitarianism of the new faith ensured the equality of all Muslims, irrespective of ethnic origin or social class, enhanced by the bond of religious fellowship. Military and political dominance, combined with language and faith, soon gave way to cultural exchange, heralding a long and fruitful process of cultural cross-fertilisation to bring about a unique hybrid."

The Islamic interaction with these cultures, particularly with Hellenism through the translation of ancient Greek works, allowed great figures to enrich our human civilisation, irrespective of its religious identity. I am thinking of intellectual giants like the physician Al Razi (Rhazes) (865-925), the physician and philosopher Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (980-1037), and Al Biruni (973-1048), physician, astronomer, mathematician, physicist, chemist, geographer and historian, who was one of the great Armenian potters and glaziers. Likewise, the prized Damascene glassware, and the equally prized Damascene copper ware, were "Islamic" ware mostly produced by Christian glaziers and Jewish coppersmiths. The descendants of these craftsmen, in the case of some families, continue to live in

previous cultures. The different elements were moulded into a new and original creation, expressed in the medium of an Arab and Islamic form.

The achievement was made possible by Muslim acceptance and eventual incorporation of the heritage of the Greek, Byzantine, Hebrew, Persian, Indian and Chinese cultural traditions in all discipline of learning. In philosophy, medicine, mathematics or the arts, the introduction of non-Muslim ideas was of essential importance.

The contributions of Christians and Jews to the development of the historical Muslim civilisation ranged from the arts and crafts to the most rarefied levels of scholarship and intellectual sophistication. From the earliest Islamic times, and until the end of the Ottoman period, the prized architecture and artistic ware of the Muslim World, commonly branded as "Islamic" without a thought as to what the term truly implies, was frequently the work of Christians or Jews. For instance, the splendid ceramics which ornament the great mosques and other historical buildings of Ottoman Istanbul were the work not only of Muslim Turks, but of Christian Armenian potters and glaziers.

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have enriched the civilisation of mankind except in a pluralist culture, which became the essence of Islam.

The diversity of Islamic society was underpinned by divine injunction. The Holy Koran proclaims:

"O mankind, We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honoured among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous. Allah is all-knowing, all-aware." (49/13).

The people of the Book, the followers of the Abrahamic faiths, were accorded a privileged position. The Holy Koran calls on Muslims to: "Contend not with the people of the Book except on the basis of that which is the best, but contend not at all with such of them as are unjust. Tell them: We believe in that which has been revealed to us, and that which has been revealed to you: Our God and your God is one; and to Him we submit." (29/57).

These guidelines, coupled with the vast conquests of Islam, convinced the Muslim that he enjoyed divine favour. Unlike the Jew or Christian before him, he alone was in possession of the divine message in its perfect form. As such, the medieval Muslims declared Jews and Christians living amongst them "protected communities." They rarely felt the need to impose Islam by force. Like the Jew or Christian, the Muslim was satisfied that those who believed differently from him would burn in Hell. Unlike them and the latter day Muslim radicals, the Muslim of the Middle Ages was content to be the dominant faith in a society of many faiths. Certain social and legal disabilities were imposed at a token of Islamic primacy while the religious, economic and intellectual freedom of non-Muslim minorities was safeguarded. This enabled them to make immense contributions to Islamic civilisation.

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The Week In Print Prepare for peace with war?

Reviewed by **Elia Nasrallah**

The visit to the Middle East by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, the Middle East peace process, domestic affairs and other issues were given prominence by the Jordanian Arabic daily press in the past week.

Indeed, he said, it seems to be the Arabs that Washington wants to ensure Israel's military domination of the Arab region before opening the way for the Jewish state to impose its hegemony on the Arab World's economic and trade affairs.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the PLO Israeli deal signed on Sept. 13 did provide for the future of Jerusalem whose status, according to the agreement would be discussed after two years of Palestinian self-rule.

Jerusalem is not like other cities, it is sacred to the Arabs as well as to the Jews and could not be traded for other lands or places, the writer said.

But, he noted, the Israeli are creating a dangerous situation by forcing the Arabs to leave the Holy City so that no demands can be made for its return. Only five per cent of the original Arab population now remain in Jerusalem as a result of Israeli measures, he added. Only through the Arab presence in Jerusalem can the Arab rights be safeguarded in the city, he concluded.

Discussing the election campaign in Al Dustour daily, columnist Mohammad Kawash said that the one-person one-vote law and the general developments in the region seem to have dampened public enthusiasm for the elections.

The writer said that he expected a poor turnout of voters, especially in Amman, despite the wide propaganda and media campaigns launched by various parties. One thing the government can do to breathe more life in the campaign and the elections themselves, is to lift all restrictions on holding rallies, suggested the writer.

Ahmad Dabbas said in Sawt Al Shaab that many voters are disappointed because they are not able to get their voting

Features

Tidbits from campaign '93

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: The recent reshuffle in the Royal Court has bearing on the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections in more ways than one. The move for Mohammad Adwan from the palace's Protocol Department to the Ministry of Tourism proves the point. Advertisements have appeared in Arabic papers congratulating Dr. Adwan's brother, Sheikh Sami Bin Affash, on the appointment. Pictures of the two brothers ran side by side in these ads, but some pundits thought the campaign overlooked an important point: No mention was made of the fact that the Adwan's third brother, Fayed, was actually the one running for elections in the Balqa District.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE POLLS: Speaking of brothers and the same family, Mijhem Majed Al Adwan is running for parliamentary elections in the Fifth District of Amman while his brother, Sultan Majed Al Adwan, (who served in the previous Parliament) is also running for elections, only is doing it in the Balqa Governorate. At least they are not contesting the same seat, one might say. The issue, however, is not so simple. Every candidate in the Kingdom must have depended to a certain extent on the support of tribal affiliates in the district he wants to run in. And since the rule of thumb is to ensure that your family and your tribe are registered in your district, one of the two brothers must have been able to keep his relatives close to him, depriving the other of this basic family support. As if to compound the matter even further, the two brothers do actually think alike. One of Sultan's banners reads like this: "To provide the necessary support to sport unions and youth centres," Mijhem's, on the other hand, says: "Support the development of sports and youth." "We wish both of them could win if their victory would indeed serve the cause of youth," one pundit said. "But we can't be so happy if tribalism is the only tie in common between the two."

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mansour Murad, Circassian candidate for the Third District, having won his much-coveted seat in 1989 under the banner of supporting Palestinian resistance and secular affiliations, must now think that the mood of his voters may have changed. This time around, his main theme is: "Only God will see to my success." Appropriate indeed, especially since he had voted for segregation of the sexes in schools and for the banning of alcohol, along with the Muslim Brotherhood movement, while serving as deputy in the 11th Parliament. And faithful to his 1993 image, he is running against two women.

MIFLEH: THE LIONHEART: An advertisement that appeared last week in support of a candidate in the Fifth District of Amman said the following: "The faithful youth of Swaileh support Sheikh Mifleh Al Lawzi 'the lion of the fifth district'." Whether or not Sheikh Mifleh wants to be called a lion is open to question, since another ad by a supporter of his had this to say about him: "He has the heart of a lamb."

WORKING MORE DILIGENTLY: An evening paper which carries little snippets of news carried the following item: "The women of Irbid area against (Dr. Ahmad) Kofahi (who won the largest majority in Jordan during the '89 elections). It said that the election committee for women in Irbid has taken a decision not to vote for Muslim Brotherhood candidate Kofahi because he took a second wife after winning in 1989. Brotherhood sources, when asked about this item, refuted it and said that more women are now working for Kofahi and that he remains the women's No. 1 candidate. Paradoxical, hub?

THOSE ELEMENTS: The Islamic Action Front's (IAF) newsletter on elections carried a column by a member of its executive committee in Amman's Third District, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Zmeili, which can be described as indicative of the ideas carried by their candidates. In his column, he attacked what he called as "elements that encourage obscenity among the public." In his column (of which we publish a very brief summary) he said: "Those who try to propagate obscene acts among the faithful are trying to transform virtue into vice and vice into something desirable to people who, after having repeatedly heard it and got accustomed to seeing it, would accept it as something normal in their lives." Zmeili distributes those "who try to encourage obscenity" in the following categories:

— Writers who use their promiscuous pens to spread obscenity and encourage people to practise it.

— Owners and publishers of magazines and newspapers which publish lascivious pictures and announcements and advertisements about lewd dancing and prostitution on their pages to stir lust and desire among the public.

— Owners of hotels and cafes who import obscenity and spread profanity by bringing in prostitutes from neighbouring countries.

— Those responsible for cheap and vulgar songs by singing, writing or composing it.

— Those who extend their support, through word or song on television or radio, and every sordid, cheap advertisement using women as a product for sale and enticement so that future generations would get used to indecency.

— Every official who condones the propagation of obscenity and profanity within the limits of his responsibility.

— All indecent, cheap woman dressing revealingly (dressed and yet undressed)

— Husbands who allow their wives to go out in the street dressed and made up in a manner which would anger God.

— Every father who allows his daughter to appear without Islamic dress, nude, and mix with men.

— Those responsible for culture and media which produce sleazy programmes for the nation and import the cultures of the East and West which distance our nation from our religion and our culture.

— Those responsible for the curricula which are used to bring up future generations on a diet of profanity, indecency and obscenity, by stuffing them with information which would encourage promiscuity and disregard for convention and manners.

— Every person responsible for a trashy festival in which people's honour is invaded in the name of culture and art. "All those and others are bound to be tortured in their lives and after death in forms which only God can determine," Zmeili said in his article.

Nermene Murad

Israel cuts ban on Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

But hours later, a joint communiqué was issued saying gradual and continual prisoner releases would begin next week. In the first stage, only prisoners under age 18 and over 50, and the sick and women would be released.

Both sides hoped the step would advance the peace process and prevent violence, the communiqué said.

Israeli delegation spokesman Ami Gluska said prisoners convicted of violent crimes would not be released even if they were in the specified categories.

He said negotiations on

New millennium should shape future on the achievements of the past

(Continued from page 4)

Damascus and practise their ancestral trades. Meanwhile, in countries as far apart as Iraq, Morocco and Yemen, the magnificent and varied local manufacture of "Islamic" ornaments in silver and gold (were those of) Jewish silversmiths and goldsmiths.

Where the intellectual heritage of Islam is concerned, the influence of Greek thought was fundamental. This process began with simple translation of the classics of Greek knowledge and philosophy, but soon evolved to encompass creative works. The movement of translation began under the Umayyads, and involved translations either directly from the original Greek or from Syriac into

other way round." This is also true of the Jewish rabbinical talmud, or *juristic responsa*, of this same period, which are the Jewish equivalent of the Muslim *fatawa*.

Throughout the so-called Middle Ages, the leading Jewish rabbis and Muslim men of learning were never out of touch with each other, each side profiting from the scholarship of the other. While Jews such as the great Musa Ibn Maymun (or Maimonides, d. 1204) undoubtedly modelled their theological thinking on the Muslim *ilm al-kalam* (what we may call Muslim scholasticism; the reconciliation of Muslim religious tenet to Aristotelian philosophy), Muslim men of learning regularly tapped the resources of Jewish scholarship for the exegesis of the Koran: the branch of Muslim religious learning called *tafsir*, to the mutual benefit of both.

St. John Damascene, the renowned Christian theologian and hymn writer of the eighth century, perhaps the most prominent of the post-Nicene church fathers, and a leading pillar of Christian orthodoxy, was a Syrian "Saracen," or Arab. He was from Damascus, and his father, a Melchite Christian called Sarjun, or Sargon, had served as a minister of finance in the Umayyad court. John Damascene himself was close to the Umayyad family in Damascus, and his familiarity with Islam was considerable. In his writings, which are taken to represent the best in the Greek literature of the period, he notes the affinity between the Muslim and Christian faiths. He considered Islam a variant, non-orthodox form of Christianity. Remarkably, it was from the safety of Umayyad Damascus, where Christians freely engaged in religious debate with Muslims in the very presence of the caliphs, that John Damascene rose to champion the cause of Christian orthodoxy against the Iconoclast policy of the Byzantine emperors of his time. In

is the literature of proud communities, confident of their standing in a society which they, no less than the Muslims, considered their own. Among the Christian Arab historians of Islam before modern times, prime examples include the thirteenth century Jacobite Christian Abu Al Faraj ibn Al Ibri (the famed Barhebraeus), whose historical compendium, "Mukhtasar tarikh al duwal," places the history of his own Christian church within the context of the Muslim civilisation.

At no stage in the long history of Islam has the community of Muslims been homogeneous except in terms of its religious allegiance. While its political structure became fractured in due course, the Christian script, with which only Christians were normally familiar.

It must be pointed out that only Christians who felt fully integrated in Muslim society could have conceived of their own Christian communities within the Islamic historical context.

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European stock markets buoyed by Bundesbank

LONDON (AFP) — European stock markets were buoyed Friday by the cut in German interest rates ordered Thursday by the Bundesbank, and stocks set new records in London, Paris and Frankfurt.

On the London exchange, prices were boosted by hopes for lower British rates in the wake of the German move, and the Footsie 100-share index rose by 10.7 points or 0.3 per cent on the day to finish at 3,199 points, an all-time closing high. A few minutes earlier, the indicator stood at a record high of 3,199.2 points. Gains were up by as much as a third of a point.

Share volume totalled £655.2 million against £745 million on Thursday.

It was the same story in Paris, as stocks rose to a record high in the wake of German

and French interest rate reductions. Major French banks lowered their prime rates Friday afternoon by 0.25 per cent after the Bank of France reduced key rates in the morning.

On the Paris Bourse, the CAC 40 index surged by 1.46 per cent on the day to an all-time closing high of 2,331.86 points. The previous closing high came on Aug. 31, 2,216.49. Friday was settlement day, but the normal profit-taking did not materialise, dealers said.

They added that the bourse would certainly rise to new highs next week.

The market was very active with volume of more than six billion francs on the monthly settlement market.

In Frankfurt, the stock market hailed the Bundesbank's

Thursday move in active trading, taking the DAX index up by 31.48 points on the day to 2,066.17 — a new record closing high. The Commerzbank indicator ended at 1,170.40, up 29.40 points.

In addition to lower interest rates, the dollar's firmness also helped the market, dealers said. "There has never been so much liquidity on the market," said one CSFB Effektebank operator.

In Madrid, the stock market's general indicator rose 5.10 points or 1.67 per cent on the day to end at 310.28, a new closing high for the year so far. Operators said the market was pleased with the Bank of Spain's decision to lower its key interest rate by a quarter-point to 9.25 per cent.

The Bank of France decided Friday to follow the German

Bundesbank's signal for a shift to lower short-term interest rates — but without endangering the French franc's stability.

Friday morning, the French central bank cut its intervention rate by 0.3 per cent to 6.45 per cent as of next Tuesday as a reflection of "the general downturn of rates in Europe

and with an eye on the objective of the franc's internal and external stability," it said.

The bank also lowered its five-to-ten-day securities repurchase rate from 7.75 to 7.25 per cent.

Credit Lyonnais bank economist Jean-Paul Berbezé

commented that the decision shows that both the German and the French central banks continue to focus on getting long-term interest rates down, and one should not "fantasise about a sudden sharp drop in short-term rates" that would endanger the stability of long rates.

Deutsche Aerospace to slash workforce, shut six plants

BONN (R) — Daimler-Benz aerospace unit Deutsche Aerospace (DASA) has said it would cut 16,000 jobs and shut six plants over the next three years due to worldwide recession and an airline industry crisis.

Management board chairman Juergen Strempel told journalists in Munich DASA would axe 10,300 jobs by the end of 1996 in addition to nearly 6,000 cuts already under way. DASA employs around 80,000 people.

The job cuts and plant closures would save the company around 1.5 billion marks (\$910.1 million) a year and pull it back into profit by 1995. DASA had to act "to maintain the competitive ability of the German aerospace industry in the international market."

"This calls for the courage to take unpopular decisions such as job reductions and the closing down of sites," Mr. Strempel said.

The job cuts will mainly affect DASA's aviation and defence operations. In the civil aviation division, 6,500 of the 44,600 employees will lose their jobs, as will 2,500 of the 11,600 defence and civil systems workers.

The company will dispense with those activities which are of no strategic importance to its core businesses," Mr. Strempel said.

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with those activities which are of no strategic importance to its core businesses," Mr. Strempel said.

DASA would invest 1.5 billion marks (\$910.1 million) between now and 1998 in its defence and civil systems divisions, he said. But two of the company's German Airbus plants — at Lemwerder and Munich-Neuherberg — will close by 1996.

He said production in Europe was being made uneconomical by high labour costs. DASA's defence division was suffering because European governments are placing fewer orders and because of a lack of coordination over arms exports regulations.

Aerospace and defence companies have been hit since the end of the cold war by shrinking defence budgets as military planners review strategies under pressure from cash-strapped Western governments.

Mr. Strempel said he expected the former Soviet Union to become a significant competitor in the airline and space industries and even saw it entering into strategic alliances with the U.S.

Apart from "disastrous" profits in the airline industry, DASA faced increased competition from the U.S. and Japan.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

The Sun enters Scorpio and you are imbued with a fresh new plan of attack on whatever may have been baffling you up to this point. You mental ingenuity and manual dexterity will be put to the test.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Matters at home can cause you to feel you are being too taken for granted so don't expect much praise today but tonight tensions may do lift.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

You find it difficult today to put into effect the ideas which you feel can be of the greatest help and assistance to you, tonight avoid public pressures.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Be most cautious and careful in handling any promises you have made for any misstep could boomerang against your best interests.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

You have a partner now with whom you would like to get along better but that person is stepped in own ambitions and can be a disappointment to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

Whatever you have in mind about getting work done or being of service to others can be hard to effectuate today but tonight an outsider helps.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Having a good time this day will not be all it has been anticipated so don't be upset if some obstacles arise, tonight duties can be well handled.

Belgium urged to raise taxes to pay social security deficit

BRUSSELS (AFP) — An official committee of Belgian economists chaired by central banker Fons Verplaetse has urged the government to raise taxes in a bid to finance its chronic social security deficits.

The recommendation was made in a report presented to Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene by Mr. Verplaetse, who is governor of the National Bank of Belgium.

It recommended higher indirect taxes, plus higher taxes on investment income, real estate and energy consumption.

The committee was appointed to identify ways of restoring currency confidence, reducing Belgium's massive public debt and social security deficit, and turning around the rising rate of unemployment.

The report is expected to become a central element in Mr. Dehaene's efforts.

announced last July, to negotiate a social pact between government, employers and trade unions aimed at restoring confidence in the Belgian economy.

This would include lowering the cost of labour and making companies more competitive so that they will become more profitable and create new jobs.

Specifically, the "Verplaetse report" calls for social security spending to be pegged to the rate of real economic growth over the past 10 years.

It shifts part of the burden of financing this spending from employers to individuals through:

— A harmonised 15 per cent tax on all local investments by residents of the European Community. The present tax for Belgian citizens is 10 per cent.

— Higher indirect taxes which do not exceed average levels charged in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

— An energy tax along the lines of a tax proposed by the European Commission. It would include a tax on carbon dioxide emissions.

— On real estate except primary residences.

The report recommends that real pay levels be frozen, but that the indexation of salaries to inflation be maintained.

It is expected to be the centre of political debate in coming days. Its immediate result was a strengthening of the Belgian franc, which has lost six per cent against the Deutsche mark since July.

Belgian social charges on

business, among the highest in the EC, have been blamed for hurting the export competitiveness of local firms and their ability to create new jobs.

Of every 100 francs of salary currently paid by an employer, 47 goes to the worker, 40.5 is deducted for social security and 12.5 goes in taxes.

Meanwhile, unemployment is approaching 14 per cent, with nearly 500,000 people out of work in a country whose population is just 10 million. Some 2.4 million people receive social security payments from the state.

The result has been a growing social security deficit which has contributed to national budget deficit which last year was nearly seven per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The public debt currently stands at more than 120 per cent of GDP, absorbing about 30 per cent of the annual state budget.

This has left Belgium far short of meeting two central criteria for joining a European Community currency (EC) union — a budget deficit of no more than three per cent of GDP, and public debt falling towards 60 per cent of GDP.

TOKYO (Agencies) — More than 90 per cent of major Japanese companies are recruiting fewer college graduates this year, and 26 per cent are cutting hiring by half or more, a survey has said.

The survey by the financial daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun provides some of the strongest evidence yet of the plight faced by new graduates in Japan as companies cope with plunging profits.

Japanese firms traditionally try to avoid layoffs, so they usually cut back on hiring new employees and offer early retirement plans when they find themselves with too many workers.

The Nihon Keizai said 198 of the 216 companies it surveyed, or 92 per cent, plan to hire fewer university graduates to start in spring 1994 than they did for spring 1993. Fifty-six, or 26 per cent, will cut the number of new hires by half or more, the survey said.

Japanese companies gener-

ally do all their yearly hiring in one batch, selecting a group of students in the fall. The students graduate the following March and begin work in April.

Among major companies, Sony Corp. said it will hire 400 people, down from 740 last year, and Fujitsu Ltd. will cut new hires from 1,200 to about 300.

Japanese companies that hired and invested heavily in the boom years of the late 1980s are now finding themselves with too much capacity and unneeded employees because of the nation's economic slump.

However, corporate bankruptcies in Japan from April to September fell 0.6 per cent from the same period last year to 6,913, marking the first drop in six half-year periods, Teikoku Data Bank Ltd. has said.

The number of failures, defined as those with liabilities of at least 10 million yen (\$93,500), also represented a 7.7 per cent decline from the

previous half-year period, the private credit research agency said.

The total liabilities from bankruptcies in the six months to September stood at 2.93 trillion yen, down 18.3 per cent from the previous fiscal year's first half, marking a year-on-year drop of three straight half-year periods, it said.

Agency officials attributed the declines in both the number of cases and the amount of liabilities to a sharp 28 per cent fall what is called a "bubble type" business failure stemming from excessive investment or borrowing.

Also, the average debt amount per case fell to 424 million yen, down from 515 million yen a year earlier. But the amount was the third biggest on record for a first half-year period, the agency said.

The number of bankruptcies with liabilities of at least one billion yen declined from 477 a year earlier to 468, and those with five billion yen or more also fell from 347 to 337.

Swedish government proposes employment tax cuts to encourage hiring

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Swedish government has proposed a 15 percentage point cut in new employment tax for 1994 and a six-month extension on youth training placements in a bid to stimulate employment.

The goal of the proposals, presented to parliament by Labour Minister Boerge Hoerlund, is to reduce unemployment to around six or seven per cent by the end of the decade.

Unemployment in Sweden

stood at 8.7 per cent in September, according to the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics.

The government hopes that the new measures will make it more attractive for companies to recruit new employees, translating into at least 20,000 new jobs during 1994, Swedish Finance Minister Anne Wibbel said.

The government also intends to invest 243 million kronor (\$30.3 million) to decrease long-term unemployment.

Despite the new measures,

the government expects unemployment to increase in the near future. During 1993, an unemployment level of around eight per cent is anticipated, and after a climb to 8.4 per cent in 1994 it will dip to just under eight per cent in 1995.

The government has never before invested so much in reducing unemployment. Most important right now are our long-term measures to get growth moving and create new jobs," Mr. Hoerlund said.

The option to extend the

present six-month free-of-charge period on youth training placements was also presented to parliament.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decrease this year by three per cent, but a two per cent increase can be expected in 1994 and a three per cent climb in 1995, Ms. Wibbel said.

According to the finance ministry's prognoses, growth will decrease by 2.8 per cent in 1993 but then climb 1.9 per cent in 1994 and 2.9 per cent in 1995.

In general terms, the Swedish economy has hit rock bottom and is now on the upswing, the Finance Ministry said in its fall prognoses and economic

proposals to parliament.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decrease this year by three per cent, but a two per cent increase can be expected in 1994 and a three per cent climb in 1995, Ms. Wibbel said.

Inflation can be expected to rise 4.6 per cent this year, while it will increase only 2.6 per cent in 1994 and 2.9 per cent in 1995.

The government also announced it planned to cut an additional 20 billion kronor (\$2.5 billion) off the budget deficit. By 1998 the deficit will have been cut by 81 billion kronor (\$10.1 billion), the government predicted.

1993 and then surge nine per cent in 1993 and six per cent in 1995.

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THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



"Stanley, when we're done kissing, get a ladder and scrape all those little hearts off the ceiling."

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Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PLITO

NITLE

FREBLY

Dollar seen rising to DM1.85 while falling to yen 95

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: Prospects for U.S. growth of better than 4% in the fourth quarter should help boost the dollar in coming weeks as interest rates in Europe continue to decline. The U.S. and Japan both appear content to let the dollar remain indefinitely in the 100-to-110 range of recent months. But upward pressure on the yen is likely to reemerge next year if Japan's current account surplus fails to narrow significantly. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to DM 1.85 while falling to yen 95 over the next 12 months.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar index gained over 0.9% during the week ended Oct. 15. While the greenback was weak against both the Australian and Canadian dollars, it was generally strong against the European currencies and the Japanese yen. Put/call ratios remain generally oversold, while medium term sentiment is coming off of an oversold condition versus the European currencies and remains oversold versus both the Canadian dollar and the Japanese yen. Short term momentum for the dollar index has bottomed. At the same time, the medium term oscillator remains weak. While this indicator has the potential to keep its downward bias into late November, there are at least some preliminary signs of an impending reversal.

With this in mind, we are inclined to think the index is likely to go through a rally-test sequence before it establishes a low that marks the end of the post-July corrective process. Once that low is established, the dominant 13-month uptrend should reassert itself. There is important chart support just above

88.00. Important resistance exists below 94.00.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental view: The dollar has strengthened to near the DM 1.65 level in recent days as prospects for firm growth in the U.S. in the current quarter contrast with ongoing stagnation and rising unemployment in continental Europe. Our U.S. analysts expect real GDP growth of 4.2% in the current quarter in response to firm consumer spending and residential construction and increased industrial output as U.S. firms seek to rebuild lean inventories.

In contrast, German industrial production is expected to decline 0.5% next year after a steep decline of 8% this year according to a recent IFO research institution survey. The Bundesbank cut its rep rate by 3 basis points this week to 6.67% and is likely to cut its official discount rate by another 50 basis points next month, bringing the discount rate to 5.75%.

We continue to expect German 3-month interest rates to decline nearly 250 basis points by the end of next year from a current level of about 6.5%. With interest-rate differentials and growth differentials both likely to favour the dollar in the year ahead, we are maintaining our 12-month target of DM/U.S.\$1.85. We continue to look for the dollar to reach DM 1.80 and DM 1.85 over the next six and 12 months.

Technical view: The Deutsche mark dropped 0.8% week-to-week versus the U.S. dollar. Short term sentiment towards the currency has been overbought (i.e., excessively bullish), while medium term sentiment is neutral as it continues to improve relative to its recent overbought readings. Short term momentum has peaked and now has a downward bias. Medium term

oscillators have been constructive for over two months and have the potential to remain positive for several more weeks.

It is likely, therefore, that the next short term peak will coincide with a medium term peak. If so, the currency would be positioned for a resumption of its multi-month downtrend. With this in mind, a test of the twin peaks recorded last April and December in the 1.55-1.57 DM/U.S.\$ range is still possible. Currency support is indicated at 1.65 and 1.69. The mark/yen cross-rate continues to hold above the 62-64 trading range and has done so with solid short and medium term momentum indications.

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Bosnian Serbs, rebel Muslims in Bihać sign peace accord

BELGRADE (AFP) — Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim leader of Bihać in northwest Bosnia, Fikret Abdic, have signed a peace agreement, Serbian President Slobodan Milošević said here Friday.

"Half of the territory of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina is today at peace," Mr. Milošević said after a two-hour meeting with Mr. Abdic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić at the Serbian president's residence.

"I hope that we will not have to wait too long for a just peace settlement in the whole of the former Bosnia," Mr. Milošević added.

Mr. Abdic last month proclaimed the Muslim enclave of Bihać in northwestern Bosnia an autonomous region, in open defiance of the Muslim President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegović.

The Bihać rebellion, the first serious breach in the Muslim camp, has served further to weaken the position of Mr. Izetbegović, who continues to hold out against a plan for Bosnia's partition along ethnic lines.

Mr. Milošević and Mr. Karadžić last week said the last Geneva peace plan worked out by international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Soltenberg should be brought back for discussion.

The Owen-Soltenberg plan, which was approved by Bosnia's Serbs and Croats, has been rejected by Mr. Izetbegović. Mr. Abdic has backed the plan.

Fighting between forces loyal to Mr. Izetbegović and the Bihać rebels has left about a dozen people dead in Bosnia.

Meanwhile an exchange of Bosnian Croat and Muslim prisoners in the southern town of Mostar was suspended after Red Cross convoys sent to evacuate them were prevented from moving through the town, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Sarajevo said Friday.

About 150 prisoners were to have been taken out Thursday, already a day later than originally scheduled.

Negotiations to find a solution are supposed to take place in the Croatian capital Zagreb Saturday, a Red Cross spokesman said.

The first phase of the Croat-Muslim swap in Bosnia-Herzegovina Tuesday saw 1,081 prisoners freed.

In Zagreb, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said a convoy taking 75 tonnes of food and medicine to the Muslim enclave of Maglaj had been stopped 10 kilometres (six

miles) short of its destination in Croat-held territory.

UNHCR official Alekma Lisinski said demonstrators and members of the Croat HVO militia had stopped the trucks at Ozimica. The convoy left Zagreb Thursday and when just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Maglaj was halted by Serb forces at Teslic and forced to spend the night there, Lisinski said.

"The government has demonstrated, at the highest levels, its inability to function, and could, if it continues in this manner, harm national and state interests," the motion read.

Tanjug said the move by the SRS, which is also ultranationalist, was motivated mainly by an article in the Yugoslav constitution which prevents the president from dissolving the federal parliament while censure motions are under debate.

Tanjug said the move by the SRS, which is one of but not the main opposition party in Serbia, presented a motion of no-confidence against the Serbian government. After a stormy but inconclusive debate on the motion, Mr. Milošević reacted this past Wednesday by dissolving the Serbian parliament, citing "paralysis of the decision-making process." He also called parliamentary elections in Serbia for Dec. 19.

Serbia's main opposition party — the Serbian Renewal Movement led by the writer Vuk Draskovic — has said it will boycott the elections.

He added that the fighting had made no major changes to the front line.

In a separate development, the far-right opposition Radical Serbian Party (SRS) has presented a no-confidence motion in parliament against the rump Yugoslav government, Tanjug News Agency said Friday.

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Angolan city needs aid to stem starvation

MENONGUE, Angola (R) — U.N. mercy flights have resumed to the Angolan city of Menongue where 5,000 people have died in a nine-month rebel siege, but countless more could perish if the food aid stops.

Aid workers say flights carrying tonnes of medicine and food over the past two weeks

Clinton admits trouble with foreign policy

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has admitted he has had trouble with foreign policy but said the post-cold war era presents problems as challenging as those faced in the aftermath of World War II.

"In this struggle to find our way in the world, there are those who have said, well, I haven't done everything right, and to that I plead guilty," Mr. Clinton told a Democratic fundraiser.

"But I'll tell you one thing, in this administration we show up for work every day with our sleeves rolled up, and with the determination to face the challenges before us," he said.

Mr. Clinton and his foreign policy team of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and

they cannot cultivate fields because of land mines."

He estimated at least 5,000 people had died in the siege which began in January, cutting access to the town of 100,000. Menongue is the capital and the only city of southern Cuando Cubango province still in government hands.

The problems in Somalia and Haiti have raised doubts about whether Mr. Clinton will be able to follow through on a pledge to contribute 25,000 troops to an international peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

Many members of Congress, including some from his own Democratic Party, have expressed serious doubts about Mr. Clinton's stewardship of U.S. foreign policy, and the president this week fended off a challenge from Senate Republican leader Bob Dole to restrict his military options in Haiti.

"The dictators killed Ndadaye," Mr. Minani, who was in the neighbouring Rwandan capital of Kigali when the coup was launched Thursday, told Rwandan Radio.

He said his information came from Burundi, though he gave no other immediate details. Mr. Minani also said several senior officials in Mr. Ndadaye's regime had fled to Rwanda.

"The whole world knows that they killed him in cold blood, as well as the speaker of parliament and many other democratically elected leaders of Burundi," he said.

Rwanda Radio reported Thursday that Mr. Ndadaye had been executed, along with the interior minister and security chief.

Earlier Radio Burundi said the coup-makers had installed a Committee of National Salvation led by Francois Ngeze, the interior minister in the government of ex-President Pierre Buyoya.

Gen. Shalikashvili acknowledged that nations were hesitant to contribute to the force, which is supposed to comprise up to 25,000 Americans.

But he said they would be more willing to step forward once they had evidence that a peace plan was signed and respected — on the local as well as national levels.

Gen. Shalikashvili also moved to reassure Washington's European partners that the United States would retain a strong presence on the continent despite plans to slim down its forces.

He said the Clinton administration was "clear about the importance of retaining a strong forward presence in Europe. I will do my very best to ensure that there are combat ready and supported forces stationed in Europe."

Both generals agreed on the need for a large NATO role for France, which dropped out of the alliance's integrated military command in 1996.

Gen. Shalikashvili welcomed French moves to help the alliance partners enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Adriatic Sea to enforce an embargo on the Serbs.

"I am very hopeful that as we move ahead this relationship will get stronger and I would applaud the day when we would be able to have France as a full member of the military structure," he said.

"I know that the sanctions carry a heavy burden for all of us here. But the message behind the sanctions is that we will not back away. We must be on the way to democracy," Mr. Malval said.

When asked whether he feared for his life, Mr. Malval said, "we all have our life on the line. We know we have a job to do."

On Thursday, prominent Aristide supporter Samuel Milord, a congressman, was reported missing. His family told Radio Tropic FM he was kidnapped, but the president of the lower chamber of parliament, Antoine Joseph, said Mr. Milord was in hiding because of death threats.

The plan provides for beefed-up cooperation in peacekeeping planning, training and other activities and would require a large outlay of NATO resources.

But Gen. Shalikashvili said:

Burundi president killed in coup

NAIROBI (AP) — Burundi's President Melchior Ndadaye has been killed by army rebels who staged a coup in Bujumbura, Burundi Health Minister Jean Minani confirmed Friday.

The dictators killed Ndadaye," Mr. Minani, who was in the neighbouring Rwandan capital of Kigali when the coup was launched Thursday, told Rwandan Radio.

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When asked whether he feared for his life, Mr. Malval said, "we all have our life on the line. We know we have a job to do."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Atletico Madrid coach quits

MADRID (AFP) — Brazilian coach Jair Pereira is leaving Atletico Madrid, the club announced Friday, ending weeks of speculation. Pereira, who has failed to establish a good rapport with the players or to deliver results on the pitch, will be replaced temporarily by his Argentine deputy "Cacho" Heredia. Heredia had been the team's coach at the end of last season, following the sacking of Luis Aragonés and another Argentine Omar Pastoriza. Club President Jesus Gil Y Gil has openly admitted recently that he made a mistake by recruiting Pereira. He is now looking for his 15th coach in seven years for the mid-table club.

Rusedski beats Gustafsson at Salem Open

PEKING (AP) — Greg Rusedski blasted 21 aces to upset second-seeded Magnus Gustafsson Friday in the quarterfinals of the Salem Open. "The difference is all mental," said Rusedski, ranked 71st in the world, who defeated the 19th-ranked Swede 7-5, 4-6, (7-2). "I can play the big points well now." The win added to a series of upsets Rusedski pulled last week when he reached the semifinals of the Seiko Super Tennis Tournament in Tokyo, where he beat Wayne Ferreira, Richard Krajicek and Michael Chang. Chang, ranked No. 7 in the world, is seeded first at the Salem Open, China's first ATP professional tournament. Rusedski, a 20-year-old Canadian who lives in London, attributed his new-found strength to his work with sports psychologist Wayne Halliwell. "I think it's because I believe in myself more now. I've been watching tapes of the top guys playing big points," he said. In another singles quarterfinal, fourth-seeded Brad Gilbert of San Rafael, Calif., beat sixth-seeded Jonas Svensson of Sweden, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Heysel to be renovated, renamed

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Football is set to return to the Heysel Stadium where 39 mainly Italian fans lost their lives before the 1985 European Cup final. The Belgian cabinet gave the go-ahead Friday for renovation work to start on the stadium in September 1994. Heysel, which will be renamed the King Baudouin Stadium after the Belgian monarch who died in July, has been off-limits to football since the fateful May 25 final between Juventus and Liverpool. Liverpool fans charged the Italians on the terraces, causing a crush which was then compounded by a wall collapsing. The new ground will be a covered 40,000 all-seater, conforming to the new safety regulations required by the European Football Union (UEFA). It should be completed in July 1995 and officially opened in August with an international friendly between Belgium and Germany. The inauguration will also coincide with the centenary of the Belgian Football Union. The revamped stadium, estimated to cost \$20 million, is seen here as the centrepiece of a joint Belgian/Dutch bid to host the European Championship finals in 2000. It will only be used for internationals, and not Belgian League matches.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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DUAL TASKS PROVE IMPOSSIBLE

Both vulnerable, West deals:

NORTH

♦ 6 2

♦ 10 6

♦ K Q J 6 3

♦ A 5 4

WEST

EAST

6 K Q J 5 ♦ 10 7 6 4

♦ A 5 3

♦ 9 2

♦ A 10 8 5

♦ Q J 9 8 ♦ 7 6 3

SOUTH

♦ A 9 8

♦ K Q J 9 8 7

♦ 7 4

♦ 10 2

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

If we were asked for the one Golden Rule of bridge, we would opt for:

"Plan your campaign before playing for the first trick!" This holds true for both declarer and the defenders.

South's jump response to North's overcall shows a near opening bid with good six-card suit. Thus, North could carry on with game but only two-card support, but a good hand.

Phillies stay alive with 2-0 win over Jays

PHILADELPHIA — Curt Schilling pitched a masterful complete-game shutout as the Philadelphia Phillies stayed alive in the World Series with a 2-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

to win."

Philadelphia manager Jim Fregosi said his team had bounced back from ugly outings many times before: "We played a lot of games like last night's game. This club is a tough club."

Terry Mulholland, winner of game two, was scheduled to start for Philadelphia Saturday against Toronto's Dave Stewart, who has a three-game, World Series losing streak including game two.

John Kruk and rookie shortstop Kevin Stocker — the only two Philadelphia starters not to get hits in Wednesday's 32-hit game — knocked in Thursday's only runs.

In the first inning, Lenny Dykstra walked, stole second and advanced to third on catcher Pat Borders' throw into centre field. He came home on Kruk's infield ground-out.

"After last night's game, who would have thought that a ground ball to second would win the game?" Kruk said.

In the second, Darren Daulton led off with a double to the centre field wall and came home on Stocker's double down the first base line to make it 2-0.

Asked what he felt getting the RBI, Stocker said: "Relief, I guess. It felt really good."

Kruk had a vivid memory of the night before: "Like a kick to the testicles — hard. Not your typical one-run game," he said.

But he pointed out that the Phillies had come back from debacles against Atlanta in the National League Championship series. "Against the Braves we got blown out twice and came back and won three in a row," Kruk said.

Also, expatriates from both

the Phillies, seeking just their second World Series title in five appearances starting in 1915 and their first since 1980, bounced back from a devastating 15-14 loss Wednesday in which they had carried a five-run lead into the eighth inning.

Asked if he was surprised at the Phillips' resilience, Toronto manager Cito Gaston said: "No, they have the same type of players as we have. They are like you call in baseball a bunch of gamblers. They're not going to quit, they go out there

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The Phillips

Ross' talks on Jordanian economy described as positive

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials Friday described as highly positive the discussion that U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross held here Wednesday on Jordan's economy and said they expected concrete measures from Washington soon to address the Kingdom's difficulties, particularly in reducing its foreign debt burden.

The officials said that Mr. Ross discussed the problems faced by the Kingdom in a general context and did not specifically raise the possibility of Washington writing off \$380 million in the Kingdom's military debts to the U.S., but that it was clear that the U.S. would be moving soon in a positive direction.

"The discussion covered the Jordanian debt of \$942 million to the U.S. and how Washington was studying various options to help Jordan reduce it," said one of the sources. "No specific mention was made that Washington would or could write off the military debt," said one source, who preferred anonymity.

Mr. Ross reaffirmed the Clinton administration's commitment to helping Jordan overcome its economic problems, particularly its foreign debt of nearly \$7 billion, and promised that Washington would work closely with other creditors of the Kingdom to help it reduce its burden, said the source.

The source declined to be specific when asked whether Mr. Ross went into any details of the practical steps Washington might be considering in this respect.

"The next few days and weeks should witness some positive developments," said the source.

Mr. Ross himself, addressing a press conference after his talks here, said the discussions covered the debt question. "We, from our end, talked about the president's commitment to trying to be as responsive as we can on the issue of debt."

"We talked about some of

the difficulties that will be faced, but we also made it clear that we will do all we can to try to move ahead on this issue."

Part of the "difficulties" that Mr. Ross alluded to was taken to imply possible hurdles posed by the U.S. Congress in any outright write-off of Jordan's debts.

American laws permit the write-off of only military debts, as Washington has done in the case of Egypt and Poland, and Jordanian officials have expressed high hopes that this could be applicable for the Kingdom.

"Some new mechanism will have to be found to reduce Jordan's non-military debts to the U.S.," said a European diplomat. "It is not clear yet whether there is a mood in Washington to do so, given the fact that the administration might be reluctant to set precedents."

In his comments here Wednesday, Mr. Ross said Washington "still had to sort out exactly what is possible."

"There still are, I think, efforts that we are going to make on our own, and then we'll talk with others who are some of the creditors to figure out how best we might try to reduce the burden that Jordan is currently feeling," he said.

Diplomatic sources interpreted this comment to mean the acceptance by Washington that unless it took the lead in alleviating Jordan's debt burden it will not be in a comfortable position to ask some of its European friends to do so.

The Jordanian sources also said that another issue raised during Mr. Ross' talks here was the direct losses that Jordan was suffering from the three-year-old international sanctions against Iraq.

"The U.S. has promised that it would do what it could to reduce the impact of the sanctions on Jordan," said one source.

"This would mean an improvement in the inspection of Aqaba-bound ships with a view to reducing the delays and losses suffered by Jordanian importers," said the source. "It is not clear yet how this could be achieved, but we have

been given to understand that the fact-finding committee's report will be positive in affirming that Jordan is enforcing the sanctions against Iraq," said the source.

The source was referring to the visit in September of an American official delegation which held talks with officials and businessmen in Jordan and looked into the various aspects of Jordan's enforcement of the sanctions.

The delegation's report is almost in its final form, and the findings and recommendations therein could be translated into measures that would alleviate the problems faced by Aqaba-bound ships, diplomat said.

Another aspect of the report is expected to cover Jordanian exports to Iraq of items exempt from the sanctions. Jordanian exporters have been complaining that they faced unjustified delays in securing U.N. permission for their exports to Iraq while competitors in other countries, including Turkey and Iran, Iraq's two other neighbours, did not have such problems.

An accelerated process of clearing Jordanians' requests for U.N. permission for exports to Iraq is expected to be recommended in the report of the American delegation, which was headed by Ambassador David Newton.

Answering a question at Wednesday's press conference, Mr. Ross said that Washington would try to help Jordan within the constraints imposed by the sanctions on Iraq.

"We made it clear it is very important from our standpoint to ensure that the sanctions regime is one that continues to be enforced, but we want to look for ways to also take account of Jordan's needs and try to be responsive to Jordan's needs while also ensuring the sanctions regime," he said.

There was no detailed explanation to the role of the joint Jordanian-American-Israeli economic working group announced after an Oct. 1 meeting at the White House between President Clinton and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The sources said the working

group was expected to hold its first meeting on the sidelines of the next round of the bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab parties involved in the peace process. No date has yet been set for the bilaterals.

Asked at Wednesday's press conference what was the group's specific role, Mr. Ross said: "We see it as an important mechanism for developing and coordinating on projects that could be of mutual benefit."

"We see it as an important mechanism for coordinating on broader efforts to promote peace and also areas of economic cooperation and economic development. So, we would hope to be able to move ahead in terms of having a meeting of such a group in the near future, and that's one of the things we talked about here and we are talking about that with the Israelis," he said.

In general context, Mr. Ross also affirmed that Jordan had to play a major role in contributing to the economic development of the Palestinians in the context of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord.

"If you look at the (Israel-PLO) declaration of principles (signed on Sept. 13), within the declaration ... itself there is an expectation and a need that Jordan will take part," Mr. Ross told reporters. "The fact of the matter is that when one begins talking about economic cooperation, many of the issues that come up there necessarily involve Jordan as well," he said.

"That is something we understood clearly not only from the character of the declaration of principles but frankly from the discussions that we have had with Palestinians and Israelis, and also with the Jordanians," added the U.N. envoy who held talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis before flying to Jordan.

"So, I think that as steps are taken to change the realities on the ground, especially to economic development, those are steps that both have an effect on Jordan and will be affected by Jordan," he said.

Mr. Arafat pledged to follow French revolutionary ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity.

"France today stands by our side at this new dawn in the occupied territories," he told a joint news conference with Mr. Sequin.

The PLO leader also met the head of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Federico Mayor, to discuss boosting education and protecting holy places.

Mr. Arafat said France will provide a quarter of aid pledged by the EC to the Palestinian autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

He set no figure, but the EC pledged 500 million ECUs (\$600 million) in aid over five years and 90 million ECUs (\$108 million) in 1993 after the September 13 autonomy accord signed with Israel in Washington.

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